

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The Information Disclosure Statements filed **11/20/2003 and 5/18/2007** have been considered. Initialed copies of the Form 1449 are enclosed herewith.

Examiner's Amendment

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with **Chun-Pok Leung** on **12 April 2010 and 21 April 2010** where the allowance of the claims was discussed as well as the amendment of the claims to bring them more in line with the claimed embodiment. After clarification, that the missing items in the specification were presented in the June 11, 2008 amendment to the specification Examiner considered that the embodiment presented in figure 11 and described in the specification was potentially allowable pending amendment to the claims which are presented below.

Claim 26:

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26. (New) A cross-contamination prevention system relating to an automatic analyzer having a reagent pipetting probe for pipetting a predetermined amount of a reagent into a reaction cuvette and a rinsing mechanism for rinsing said reagent pipetting probe, comprising:

an ~~information supervisor device~~ maintenance office device for storing and receiving reagent cross-contamination information of a combination of an offensive reagent and a defensive reagent, with the defensive reagent to be affected by the offensive reagent;

an information transmission unit connected to the maintenance office device and a first automatic analyzer via a communication line and a first automatic analyzer, the information transmission unit transmitting reagent cross-contamination information obtained by a test using the first automatic analyzer ~~to the maintenance office device~~; and

an information receiver unit connected to ~~information supervisor device~~ the maintenance office device and a second automatic analyzer which is installed at the one or more customer's location, through a second communication line, the information receiver unit receiving the reagent cross-contamination information stored at ~~information supervisor device from the information supervisor device~~ the maintenance office device;

wherein the ~~information supervisor device~~ the maintenance office device includes a true or false validating unit to validate whether the reagent cross-contamination information transmitted from the information transmission unit is true or false; and

wherein the ~~information supervisor device~~ the maintenance office device includes a transmitting mechanism to transmit the reagent cross-contamination information stored in the ~~information supervisor device~~ maintenance office device and periodically judged to be true by the true or false validating unit to the information receiver unit periodically; and

wherein the maintenance office device transmits cross-contamination data to be managed by an analyzer manufacturer; and

wherein the maintenance office charges fees in exchange for the cross-contamination information transmitted.

Claim 31

31. (New) A cross-contamination prevention system according to claim 26, wherein the ~~information supervisor device~~ maintenance office device determines a charge in exchange for reagent cross-contamination information transmitted from the information transmission unit based on whether the reagent cross-contamination information is judged to be true or false by the true or false validating unit.

Claim 38

38. (New) A cross-contamination prevention system relating to an automatic analyzer having a reagent pipetting probe for pipetting a predetermined amount of a reagent into

a reaction cuvette and a rinsing mechanism for rinsing said reagent pipetting probe, comprising:

an ~~information supervisor device~~ maintenance office device storing reagent cross-contamination

information of a combination of an offensive reagent and a defensive reagent to be affected by the offensive reagent;

an information transmission unit connected to the ~~information supervisor device~~ maintenance office device through a first communication line and a first automatic analyzer, the information transmission unit transmitting reagent cross-contamination information obtained by a test using the first automatic analyzer to the ~~information supervisor device~~ maintenance office device; and

an information receiver unit connected to the ~~information supervisor device~~ maintenance office device through a second communication line and a second automatic analyzer, the information receiver unit receiving the reagent cross-contamination information stored in the ~~information supervisor device~~ maintenance office device from the ~~information supervisor device~~ maintenance office device;

wherein the ~~information supervisor device~~ maintenance office device includes a true or false validating unit to validate whether the reagent cross-contamination information transmitted from the information transmission unit is true or false;

wherein the ~~information supervisor device~~ maintenance office device includes a transmitting mechanism to transmit only the reagent cross-contamination information

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stored in the ~~information supervisor device~~ maintenance office device and judged to be true by the true or false validating unit to the information receiver unit;

wherein the maintenance office device transmits cross-contamination data to be managed by an analyzer manufacturer; and

wherein the maintenance office charges fees in exchange for the cross-contamination information transmitted.

Claim 39

39. (New) A cross-contamination prevention system according to claim 38, wherein the transmitting mechanism of the ~~information supervisor device~~ maintenance office device transmits only the reagent cross-contamination information that is judged to be true by the true or false validating unit to the information receiver unit periodically.

Claim 43

43. (New) A cross-contamination prevention system according to claim 38, wherein the ~~information supervisor device~~ maintenance office device determines a charge in exchange for the reagent cross-contamination information transmitted from the information transmission unit based on whether the reagent cross-contamination information is judged to be true or false by the true or false validating unit.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter. Please also review the prosecution history.
4. The claimed invention is directed to a computerized system which integrates the management of cross-contamination information using analyzers. The present invention teaches the maintenance receipt and exchange of cross-contamination information electronically from an analyzer after testing. The maintenance office device transmits the cross-contamination information from the first analyzer to the analyzer manufacturer. The maintenance office device receives more information from one or more analyzers and verifies the cross-contamination information tested in these analyzers as true or false when compared with the cross-contamination information from the first analyzer. Overall, there are two or more analyzers involved with this system.

The independent claims 26 and 38 as well as their dependent claims 27-37 and 39-46 are allowed because the prior art references used **Motegi et al. (US 2002/0076352 A1)** (hereinafter "**Motegi**"), failed to teach or render obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art the limitations of claims 26 and 38.

The Motegi reference teaches a single analyzer system for investigating the influence of cross-contamination. Motegi teaches the analysis of various components of a sample. The Motegi analyzer judges whether the contamination is present or not. The analyzer in Motegi judges whether the state of the apparatus has changed and reports

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to the user. Reagents are used in the analysis. Data is input and output from the analyzer. While Motegi teaches the ability to use an automatic analyzer, Motegi does not teach a network of unrelated analyzers cross-verifying cross-contamination information. There is no mention of a link to other analyzers as the focus is only on the single analyzer.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

/Heidi Riviere/

Examiner, Art Unit 3689

/Janice A. Mooneyham/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3689